

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

----- 049975

R 171545Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5101

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: THE SOCIALIST PARTY STRIKES OUT AT PARTNERS

REF: PARIS 2686

SUMMARY. THE SOCIALIST PARTY FLEXED ITS MUSCLES TWICE IN ONE WEEK WITH A FIRM ATTACK ON PCF ELECTORAL STRATEGY AND A FLAT DISMISSAL OF LEFT RADICAL SCHULLER'S ATTACK ON THE PS AND THE COMMON PROGRAM. ONCE MORE MITTERRAND ASSERTS THE PRIMACY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN THE UNITED LEFT BY DISCOUNTING ANY CHANCE OF COMMON LISTS ON THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 1977 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN TOWNS UNDER 30,000. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY WEEKLY L'UNITE PS FIRST SECRETARY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND TOOK THE COMMUNISTS SEVERELY TO TASK FOR BROADCASTING THAT THERE WOULD BE
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SINGLE LISTS IN ALL CITIES AND TOWNS IN NEXT YEAR'S

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE SOURCE OF HIS IRRITATION IS A SET OF POSTERS, PUT UP IN THE BOUCHES-DU-RHONE DEPARTMENT (CAPITAL CITY MARSEILLE), GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PS AND THE PC WERE IN AGREEMENT ON THE TOUCHY ISSUE OF COMMON LISTS. ACCUSING THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF "LAUNCHING A CAMPAIGN OF PROPAGANDA", MITTERRAND UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT THE PS/PCF "SUMMIT" OF JUNE 28 PRECISELY PUT THIS POSSIBILITY ASIDE. HE DECLARED THAT THE INITIATIVE -- OF WHETHER OR NOT TO HAVE COMMON LISTS ON THE FIRST ROUND -- SHOULD BE LEFT TO MILITANTS AT THE PARTY BASE, TO THEIR CELLS AND SECTIONS, WITH THE ACCORD OF LOCAL FEDERATIONS. MITTERRAND FIRMLY DENOUNCED THIS EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS TO USE THE SOCIALISTS AS A STEPPING STONE INTO TOWN HALLS WHERE THEY WERE NOT YET SITTING. "AT THE RISK OF REPEATING MYSELF, I REMIND EVERYONE THAT THE SEARCH FOR A 'BEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT' MEANS THAT ON THE FIRST ROUND EACH OF THE PARTIES OF THE LEFT WILL KEEP ITS RIGHT TO EVALUATE ITS OWN CHANCES AND TO ADVANCE UNDER ITS OWN FLAG." ...HE STATED THAT A COMMON LIST WOULD BE NECESSARY IN COMMUNES HAVING MORE THAN 30,000 INHABITANTS WHERE "THE ELECTORAL LAW, FIXED BY THE RIGHT, CHANGES THE DEMOCRATIC GAME." HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT INsofar AS SOCIALISM IS CONCERNED, IT WOULD ALWAYS BE ITSELF.

2. MITTERRAND'S STATEMENTS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS AND RADIO COVERAGE ON SEPTEMBER 17. HIS REMARK ABOUT THE "ELECTORAL LAW FIXED BY THE RIGHT" REFERS TO THE FACT THAT IN CITIES OVER 30,000, IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO CHANGE A COMMON LIST BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THE SECOND ROUND (THOUGH IN CITIES UNDER 30,000, THE LAW PERMITS SUCH A CHANGE). ONCE AGAIN MITTERRAND IS SPEAKING TO HIS FEDERATIONS, ONCE AGAIN HE IS REASSERTING THE PRIMACY OF SOCIALISM IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT (SEE REF-

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TEL).

3. THE PS HAS BEEN EXCHANGING CAUSTIC REMARKS WITH THE OTHER SIDE OF ITS ALLIANCE ALSO. DIDIER SCHULLER, NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE LEFT RADICALS, DECLARED IN NANTES ON SEPTEMBER 14 THAT THE PS "WAS VERY AMBIGUOUS, A PARTY THAT TRAPS EVERYBODY." REFERRING TO MITTERRAND'S REMARKS ON ASSERTING THE PRIMACY OF SOCIALISM IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT, HE SAID THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY WAS MADE UP OF "TOO MANY UTOPIAN IDEAS" AND THAT THE COMMON PROGRAM IN ITS PRESENT STATE WAS OUTMODED. SPECIFICALLY HE ASKED FOR MODIFICATION OF THE STATUS CONCERNING NATIONALIZATION OF COMPANIES. THE PS LOST NO TIME IN REPLYING. NATIONAL SECRETARY PIERRE BEREGOVY CALLED SCHULLER'S STATEMENTS INADMISSIBLE, ACCUSING SCHULLER OF JEALOUSY OVER THE PS' SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT.
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4. COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE MORE OF THESE ATTACKS ON THE PC AS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS APPROACH. MITTERRAND CAN PERMIT HIMSELF THIS TYPE OF SCATHING CONDEMNATION BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT THE PCF, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IS GOING TO STICK TO THE UNION OF THE LEFT THROUGH THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. SHOULD THEY BREAK THE ALLIANCE BEFORE, THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE FULL OPPROBRIUM FOR THE DOWNFALL OF THE COMMON PROGRAM.

5. THE SOCIALIST PARTY WITH DOUBLE ATTACKS ON BOTH SIDES IN ONE WEEK IS CERTAINLY FEELING ITS OATS AND

FLEXING ITS MUSCLES. WITH UNITY, HOWEVER, THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN BOTH THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY AND THE LEFT OPPOSITION, THE PS WILL PRESERVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE LEFT RADICALS SINCE THEY ARE THE VERY ONES WHOM THE PRESIDENT HOPES TO WOO IN HIS APPEAL FOR "BROADENING THE MAJORITY TO THE LEFT," AND MITTERRAND WOULD NOT LIKE ANY MORE "RENEGADES" SUCH AS BROUSSE AND CAILLAVET.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALISM, PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS27228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-1012
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760949/aaaabpiw.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 2686
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE SOCIALIST PARTY STRIKES OUT AT PARTNERS
TAGS: PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006